COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 1, No. 5 December 22, 1965

President Johnson Reviews Peace Efforts in Vietnam

The United States is carefully studying how best to continue to turn back aggression in Vietnam, and at the same time is determined that every prospect for peace be exhausted before other hard steps are taken.

These remarks were made by President Johnson via telephone from the Texas White House to the AFL-CIO Convention in San Francisco.

The President said he had reviewed with top advisors the situation in Vietnam, and reviewed efforts for peace in detail.

"Our efforts to communicate our desire to talk about peace were met with silence from some, shrill propaganda from others," President Johnson noted.

He continued, "On the crucial question of readiness to meet without conditions, the response in Hanoi and —still more in Peking—remains completely negative.

"Our devotion to freedom is unyielding. So, too, is our hope for peace. Those who insist on testing either will find us earnest in both," the President stated.

SecDef Stresses Need To Strengthen NATO

Further strengthening of NATO forces in Western Europe was the primary emphasis of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara before the North Atlantic Council meeting in Paris.

He said there is a need to reverse the trend which we see in some of the nations of NATO to reduce their defense budgets.

"On balance," the Secretary explained, "the NATO nations have done very well to add to their forces and increase their budgets over the last five years.

"Many nations have increased them over 50 percent, but at present there seems to be a trend to reduce these military contributions, to increase the inequities that exist at present among the member nations.

"We feel that the United States is doing more than its share and we feel we must insist our allies increase theirs," he stated.

The Secretary also noted that both he and Secretary of State Rusk had discussed additional help from NATO allies to South Vietnam with many member nations and were "very hopeful that they will act favorably" on the requests.

GENERAL MEETS MARINES—Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, greets personnel of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine's 2nd Battalion security force during a visit to an airfield near Phan Rang.

RVN Hostile Fire Pay Rules Clarify Short Assignment Tours

Hostile fire pay for service personnel stationed outside the Republic of Vietnam, but serving one or more short duration temporary assignments there, has been clarified.

Anyone ordered temporarily from home station to the combat zone (RVN, contiguous waters thereto and air space above) for a "combat" operation qualifies.

Other personnel on short duration assignments must serve in-zone at least a part of each of six days during a calendar month, or serve six consecutive days, which may overlap from one month's end to next month's beginning.

Persons temporarily in-zone also qualify if exposed to hostile action placing them in danger of being wounded, injured or killed.

As in the past, uniformed personnel assigned in-zone for 30 consecutive days or more receive regular monthly $65 hostile fire payments.

MATS to MAC to MAJCOM

Two major Air Force organizations will be redesignated Jan. 1, 1966. Military Air Transport Service (MATS) will be renamed Military Airlift Command (MAC). Major Air Command, previously abbreviated MAC, will become Major Command with the abbreviation MAJCOM.

Washington Memos

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT Humphrey speaking at the AFL-CIO convention, in San Francisco, explained, "We will remain in Vietnam until a just and lasting peace can be established there." At the same time, he said, "We shall now—and after establishment of that peace—dedicate ourselves to creating conditions which will enable all the people of Vietnam, North and South, and all of Southeast Asia to look forward to a tomorrow without danger of attack, without hunger, and with social justice and security."

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY had the distinction of having three graduates in space simultaneously. Gemini Six astronauts Capt. Walter M. Schirra, '46, USN, and Maj. Thomas P. Stafford, '52, USAF, and Gemini Seven astronaut Cdr. James A. Lovell, '52, USN, are all graduates of the Academy.

SOME 1,100 AIR Force reservists of CONAC will enter a new specialty training program Jan. 1 designed to meet specific requirements of active duty Air Force. Reservists will be matched against grade and skill requirements of the Air Force. Program will consist of specialized classroom, extension course, job proficiency, and on-the-job training. CONAC recently activated eight specialty training squadrons with 27 subordinated flights.

A GROUP OF industry representatives has been named by Defense Supply Agency (DSA) to serve as advisors on problems related to procurement and manufacture of electrical wiring and cable for the armed forces. The committee will act as an advisory group to DSA's Defense Industrial Supply Center in Philadelphia. During FY65 the Center purchased more than $10 million worth of electrical wiring and cable.

NAVY'S BUREAU OF Yards and Docks has been responsible for completion of more than $162 million in military construction in RVN and, upon completion of work now assigned, will have completed an additional $142 million in construction projects. Bureau is DOD's construction agent in Southeast Asia.

A PRESIDENTIAL PHYSICAL Fitness Awards program to encourage increased participation in physical activities by children between age 10 and 17 has been announced by the President. One purpose of the program is to give recognition to youngsters who, although not athletes, nevertheless achieve a superior level of physical fitness. Recipients of the awards will be students in good standing who score 85 percentile or above on all seven items of the physical achievement test of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

AIR WAR COLLEGE, Maxwell AFB, Ala., will conduct 12-day courses on military decision-making starting in May 1966. Instruction will include introduction to systems analysis, planning and programming in (DOD) computer uses, military analysis, cost analysis, resource management, and role of systems analysis in selection of strategies and forces.

A GIGANTIC PIECE of ice—more than nine times the size of New York's Manhattan Island—is threatening to temporarily close a nearly completed channel leading to McMurdo Station, major supply station for U.S. scientific efforts in Antarctica. Force and direction of local winds will determine whether the four-feet thick ice chunk will move.

INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICIALS remind taxpayers who receive dividend or interest income they are required by law to give tax account number to payers of income. For individuals, account number is Social Security number. Business firms are required to report dividends or interest over $10 payed during calendar year. IRS officials note there is a penalty for failure to supply tax account numbers.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS sent by Maj. Gen. L. W. Walt, USMC, Commanding General, III MAF, Republic of Vietnam, to Gen. John D. Ryan, USAF, Commanding General, Strategic Air Command: "December 12 saw the first B-52 strike in direct support of the U.S. Marines. We are more than impressed with the results: we are delighted. The timing was precise, the bombing accurate, and the over-all effect was awesome to behold. We are now going down into the valley to take a closer look. Many thanks and come again."

1ST AIR COMMAND Wing, Hurlbut Field, Fla., received Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for world-wide service during past two years. Maj. Gen. Gilbert L. Pritchard, Commander, USAF Special Air Warfare Center, presented the award.

WOMENS ARMY CORPS enlisted members are slated for Alaskan duty for the first time. Between 20-25 will be assigned to U.S. Army, Alaska, (USARAL) sometime in January by request of USARAL's commanding general. Assignments will be to USARAL Headquarters and Support Command and Bassett Army Hospital.

MOVIE ACTOR CHARLTON Heston leaves the U.S. Jan 13 for a two-week entertainment tour in Vietnam under joint sponsorship of USO Shows and Hollywood Overseas Committee. Heston is the newly-elected president of Screen Actors Guild.

$10 MILLION ACADEMIC building at Ft. Benning, Ga., has been officially named "Infantry Hall." Six-story, "H" shaped building is headquarters of the Infantry Center and Infantry School; houses 32 classrooms; 135 offices; 1,500-person seating capacity auditorium; and is completely soundproofed.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Public Health Service Time Not Counted on Retirement

Active duty Air Force officers and warrant officers counting U.S. Public Health Service time toward retirement will have those dates recomputed, according to rulings by the U.S. Comptroller General and Air Force Judge Advocate General.

The condition that such service shall not be credited toward attaining retirement eligibility applies to regular and reserve Air Force officers on active duty. Officers with medical field Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) are being adjusted accordingly.

Air Force also says there may be individuals who no longer hold medical AFSCs who have been credited with Public Health Service time. These individuals should contact Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., requesting verification of retirement date.

ARC Service in RVN Has Sharply Increased

American Red Cross services provided for servicemen in the Republic of Vietnam have been sharply increased in recent months, according to General James J. Collins, ARC President.

Approximately 7,000 received help from Red Cross field directors in October.

Ten Red Cross Center-Clubmobile units are projected for 1966, two are already open and another will open before Christmas. ARC has workers in three hospitals in RVN and will staff a fourth this month. Two workers will be on the hospital ship USS Repose leaving the West Coast for RVN this month.

There are presently 86 ARC staff workers in RVN. They provide emergency communications, counseling, recreation and emergency financial assistance.

Defense Technical Thesaurus Will Guide Communication

Creation of a technical thesaurus for use in communication of information among the Department of Defense activities has been begun by Dr. John S. Foster Jr., Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

The thesaurus will fill a need for a guide to words and phrases expressing concepts or units of information. It will complete a major phase of DOD's program to increase effective exchange of technical information.

Scientific and technical terms will be gathered from all phases of DOD activities. Technical terminology from other government activities, related professional groups, industry, and educational institutions will also be considered.

SAFELY BACK—Astronauts Maj. Thomas P. Stafford, USAF, (left) and Capt. Walter M. Schirra, USN, congratulate each other aboard the aircraft carrier USS Wasp after the pickup of their Gemini 6 capsule in the Atlantic Ocean Dec. 16. (UPI Telephoto)

AMVETS Christmas Message

A Christmas message on behalf of more than 300,000 AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II and Korea) and auxiliary members has been sent to service personnel.

"America has not and will not forget you, or the sacrifices you are making," AMVET National Commander Ralph E. Hall said.

He spoke of the "True Prince of Peace," saying "We pray you receive an abundance of blessings and messages of love and encouragement. You may be sure that from the sacrifices you are now making will come forth a better world for all mankind.

"All AMVETS and your fellow Americans at home join me in wishing you Godspeed, safety and an early return to your home and loved ones."

The message was recorded and made available to worldwide facilities of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service.

Retired Navy, MC Flag Officers to Meet

A one-day briefing for all retired flag and general officers of the Navy and Marine Corps will be held in Washington, Jan. 14, 1966.

The briefing will provide such retired officers with accurate and significant information on naval affairs and includes high-level speakers discussing topics such as the posture of our armed forces, operations in the Republic of Vietnam and research and development.

Airpower Primary Factor in RVN, McConnell States

United States airpower in limited warfare has emerged from a secondary role to become a primary factor, according to Gen. John P. McConnell, USAF Chief of Staff.

Speaking to the Detroit (Mich.) Economics Club, General McConnell based this conclusion on "personal observations and impressions" while in the Republic of Vietnam.

Increased military participation has brought a variety of unprecedented problems, he said, adding we were bound to learn a number of lessons.

The general mentioned problems caused by vast expanses of steaming and forbidding jungle hiding thousands of dedicated and well armed guerrillas.

"You must really see for yourselves what the South Vietnamese and our troops are up against," he said. "Never before were we engaged in anti-guerrilla warfare of this type, of this scope and under these conditions."

The only answer to this unprecedented problem, he said, was to shift a major burden of the fight to airpower.

General McConnell cited various examples where this has been done including bombings, tactical air strikes, psychological warfare, and air rescue, evacuation and transportation.

PLAQUE AWARD — Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky accepts an Air Force plaque from Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, 2nd Air Division commander, commemorating a set of Air Force wings awarded the RVN Prime Minister by Gen. John P. McConnell, Chief of Staff, USAF.

New 1st Army Headquarters Opens Jan. 1 at Ft. Meade

Approximately 50 percent of First Army Headquarters functions in New York have been transferred to Second Army Headquarters, Ft. Meade, Md., under consolidation of the two commands.

By Jan. 1, movement of the remainder of the activities will be complete and the new First Army Headquarters will be in operation.

Retention of the First Army title for the new command was based on the unit's outstanding WWI and WWII combat records.

New Occupational Title Dictionary being Printed

A new Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) is now at the Government Printing Office and is expected to reach the field prior to the end of 1965.

DOT is the job classification system for the civilian economy. The current revision of DOT is the first major one since 1949 and will have considerable effect on all other job classification systems. The revision was based on an intensive survey of more than 4,000 civilian jobs and included work performed, worker traits, skills and knowledges required, and aptitudes needed.

The revision contains a completely new coding structure for all civilian occupations and gives greater emphasis to professional, technical and skilled jobs and less emphasis to semi-skilled and unskilled jobs.

New Computerized System To Aid Army Weatherman

A new atmospheric sounding device—a computerized system that can be airlifted or truck-mounted—will provide more accurate weather reports for the Army in the future.

Heart of the device is an automatic sounding set which processes data received from a sensing radiosonde carried aloft by balloons or rockets. Data is fed into a computer which turns out brief, accurate meteorological messages. The device can also predict the spread of atomic fallout.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RAdm. Robert W. Copeland, USN, appointed to 3-year term on Reserve Forces Policy Board succeeding **RAdm. William M. McCloy. Col. Ralph D. King, USA (ret.),** former assistant general manager for Military Programs, Space Systems Division, appointed vice president of Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. **Brig. Gen. Lowell E. English, USMC,** assigned Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Marine Division, RVN, succeeding **Brig. Gen. Melvin D. Henderson. Maj. Gen. Harold E. Humfeld, USAF,** assigned Commander, 1st Strategic Aerospace Division, Vandenberg AFB, Calif. **RAdm. John J. Hyland** assigned Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. **RAdm. John V. Smith** assigned Director, Strategic Plans Division, Naval Operations.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Univac Division of Sperry Rand Corp., Washington, D.C.: $1,571,760 fixed-price contract for various items of data processing equipment. **(DSA)**

Harrington and Richardson, Inc., Worcester, Mass.: $1,345,733 fixed-price contract for 7.62mm gun barrels and two sets of final inspection equipment. **(Army)**

Cutler-Hammer, Inc., Deer Park, L.I., N.Y.: $1,057,250 fixed-price provisioning order for spare parts for airborne reconnaissance systems. **(Air Force)**

Stewart Stevenson Services, Houston, Tex.: $1,351,302 initial increment to a $2,702,605 fixed-price contract for production of electrical power generators. **(Air Force)**